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The Seed Is the Word

THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD

Love prayer, and do all that lies in you that it may be continual. We receive nothing from God but by this. It is the hand that knocks that receives. The gifts of God do not come to us but by this; when this languishes, all is languid; and it is always by lukewarmness in prayer that we fall into general lukewarmness, which is without remedy.—*John Wesley.*

Published Bi-Monthly by the

AMERICAN-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP
for Christian Oneness and Evangelization, Inc.
15 Philipse Place Yonkers 3, N. Y.

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VOL. XXXIV JANUARY-FEBRUARY
No. 1 1953

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CATHERINE RUTH SMITH, Editor

Israel Fears Trouble

Dear Fellowship Friends:-

High officials in Israel have been strongly expressing indignation. Arab secrets have been discovered. Some foreign power has been supplying war material.

Israel wonders what it means! Is the New Testament right after all? Is trouble and distress coming upon the land? The Hebrew Christians have boldly declared God's Word, and have suffered persecution. They are grateful for all prayer offered up for Israel in Jesus' Name. The Lord is answering those prayers in many ways.

Friends who have just returned from the Holy Land tell us about Dr. Yuk's excellent work and his noble helpers in the American-European Fellowship Clinic there. I well remember Comrade Norman Smith's appealing for real aggressive prayer. His leaflet on Psalm 81 was touching. The patience and love of our Father-God are there emphasized.

What a privilege for us to be workers together with a sin-pardoning God! Israel's behavior in the past was blameworthy, but now perhaps the time is drawing near when God will speak more clearly to His chosen people. Shall we not pray for Israel more and more?

Dr. George H. Dowkontt was a great prayer-warrior, and so was the founder of the Fellowship, Dr. Orson R. Palmer. They loved Israel, and found inspiration in Isaiah's prophecy, along with Romans, Chapters 10 and 11. God waits to bless those who are faithful to His Word for Israel. Satan's forces are active to check us or cause us to make petty excuses. God's promises are tremendous. "The mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." "Behold, He cometh." "Be ye also ready!"

Now let us obey Him and pray in faith and expectation. Open your Bible. Kneel on His promises. Trust, watch and rejoice.

Yours for all God's Will,

F. SPENCER JOHNSON.

4 Eldon House, Lansdowne, Croydon, England.

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Another Servant of the Lord

DR. DAVID J. FANT

It is with a deep sense of gratitude to God that we present to readers of THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD, this month, our new Assistant Treasurer, Rev. David J. Fant, Litt.D. In this capacity, where he has graciously consented to serve, Dr. Fant succeeds the late Rev. George Albert Simons, D.D. It was Dr. Simons who, a few years ago, proposed Dr. Fant's name as a member of our Board of Directors. Dr. Fant continued his membership on that Board until he was named to the post of Assistant Treasurer. Perhaps this is as good a place as any to point out to our readers what they may have guessed: that the President, Vice-President (Dr. Frank E. Gaebelein, at present), and Assistant Treasurer of the Society, and of course the members of the Board of Directors, serve the Fellowship freely without remuneration. The Secretary-Treasurer, who does the office work and edits the magazine, is the only salaried officer. We wish to express our appreciation to Dr. Fant, as well as to our newly elected President, Rev. Walter J. Graig, for their generous service; and to pay tribute once more to the many sainted men of God who, without thought of earthly reward, have walked in these ways before them: Dr. Arno C. Gaebelein, Dr. George H. Dowkontt, Dr. George Albert Simons, and others.

But we are introducing our new Assistant Treasurer, and business matters should not have intervened. Dr. Fant has been, since 1947, the General Secretary of the New York Bible Society. This organization distributes the Scriptures in eighty-three languages, around the harbor and within the city of New York. For this purpose the society employs twenty agents and uses 350 volunteers. Dr. Fant's particular work is to represent the society to the churches, to edit its quarterly, *The Bible in New York;* to prepare special articles for the press, and direct the society's work at headquarters and in the field. It is the New York Bible Society which has lately posted the familiar Scripture passages, printed in large type and always in excellent taste, in our countless New York subway stations, which have been a great blessing to many.

Dr. Fant's family came originally from Atlanta, Georgia. He received his education at Furman University, from which he was graduated in 1918. In 1944, Wheaton College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Literature. Dr. Fant is married and has two sons. He is the author of a number of books, including *Modern Miracles of Healing* and *All About the Sunday*

School. He has been pastor of the Woodhaven Congregational Church, New York City (1921-1927); Bellerose Baptist Church, New York City (1930-1934), and the Gospel Tabernacle of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, New York City (1942-1946). He has also served numerous Christian publication societies in an administrative or advisory capacity, and has contributed articles to various periodicals.

In accepting his election as General Secretary of the New York Bible Society in 1947, Dr. Fant wrote (*The Bible in New York*, Vol. XL (February, 1947), p. 3): "There are three things that it is my desire to be: First, an exemplary Christian; second, an inspiring leader; and third, a sincere friend. I was born into a missionary-minded family. For twenty-five years my father, out of his moderate earnings, supported a missionary in China after whom my older sister was named. While at the seminary I volunteered as a missionary to Palestine myself, and fully expected to go. However, I was diverted into the field of Christian and missionary publications, where I have remained to this day. But here in New York I have had the privilege of serving for several years as Chairman of a Committee on Jewish evangelism, and I still have a missionary heart."

From the account which has been given of his life and work, and from his own words quoted above, it will be abundantly evident to our readers how well fitted Dr. Fant is, by temperament, training, and experience, to join with us in the work of the American-European Fellowship, which does have missionaries in Palestine (Israel) and in other countries dear to his heart. We welcome him into this fellowship of service, and pray for God's continued blessing upon him. We covet his prayers for our missionaries, and their prayers for him; and we lovingly urge all our readers to remember before God the Fellowship and its officers: the President, Mr. Graig; the Vice-President, Dr. Gaebelein; the Assistant Treasurer, Dr. Fant; the Secretary-Treasurer; and the missionaries whose names and spheres of service have become familiar through the reading of these pages. May God abundantly bless all, both here and in His eternal Kingdom.

Mr. Jones, Meet the Master

(Surely one of the best ways of welcoming Dr. Fant into our circle is to present our readers with something from his prolific and graceful pen. He is the author—among many other works—of the successful and greatly blessed series of tracts, "Mr. Jones, Meet the Master"; "Mr. Jones, Meet the Church"; "Mr. Jones, Meet the Minister," and so on. We reproduce the first of these, which has become a classic. Permission for its use has been granted by the author and the publisher. This and other titles in the series are available in tract form from the American Tract Society, Inc., 21 West 46th Street, New York 36, N. Y. If our readers find blessing in this, as they no doubt will, we may perhaps be able to reprint the other titles later on.)

The setting was one of unsurpassed scenic beauty, as the waters of blue Galilee reflected the sunlit, smiling sky above. Those tired, toiling fishermen were conscious only of the long, fruitless night through which they had passed. When the sun arose, crestfallen they had to confess, "Master, we have toiled all the night, and caught nothing." The Lord Jesus encouraged them, and at His word they once more lowered the net. This time the miracle happened; it was filled with fish.

The scene changes. The waters of Galilee are troubled in unprecedented fashion. All through the night those sturdy men of the sea fought against the tempest. Finally, exhausted, they were forced to cry out, "Master, carest

thou not that we perish?" To their infinite relief they quickly discovered that He did care, as He commanded the waters, "Peace, be still," and both winds and waves subsided.

In Jerusalem, a ruler of the Jews went privately to Jesus by night, saying, "Master, we know that thou art a teacher come from God, for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him." And Jesus said to him, "Nicodemus, except a man be born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

These are ancient Bible records—spiritual lessons drawn from the laboratory of common human experience, and they are the germ of eternal truth. Hope, fear and futility are still with us. Is your life fruitless? The Master can fill your basket full to running over. Is your heart troubled? The Lord waits to speak peace to your soul. Are you wondering about life after death? Jesus Christ offers to you eternal life. Have you met Him?

Men in many walks of life *have* met the Master, laid down their burdens, and gone on their way rejoicing.

Said Whittier the poet: "My ground of hope for myself and for humanity is in that divine fullness of love which was manifested in the life, teaching, and sacrifice of Christ."

Said William Gladstone the statesman: "All that I think, all that I hope, all that I write, all that I live for, is based upon the divinity of Jesus Christ, the central joy of my poor wayward life."

Said Hegel the philosopher: "Christ stands alone and unequaled in the world's history," while Immanuel Kant, when someone compared his name to Christ's, observed, "One of those names, before which the heavens bow, is sacred; the other is only that of a poor scholar endeavoring to explain to the best of his abilities the teachings of his Master."

Even the skeptics have paid their tributes. Pilate called Jesus, "the man without a fault"; Diderot, "the Unsurpassed"; Napoleon, "the Emperor of love"; David Strauss, "the highest model of religion"; John Stuart Mill, "the Guide of humanity"; Renan, "the greatest among the sons of men"; Francis Cobb, "the regenerator of humanity"; Robert Owen, "the irreproachable"; Thomas Paine, "a virtuous and amiable man"; Robert Ingersoll, "For that name (Jesus) I have infinite respect and love."

Twice, once at the beginning, and then near the end of the earthly ministry of Jesus, God the Father expressed His own approval, saying: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3.17, 17.5). Jesus lived a sinless life, as has no other man. He worked supernatural miracles, as has no other man. He spoke words of wisdom, surpassing those of any other man. He died a death as no other man, causing a tough Roman soldier at the cross to cry out, "Surely this was the Son of God."

Concerning Jesus Christ, the inspired Scriptures say: He came to earth to be our Saviour (Luke 2.11, 19.10); He became man's substitute on the Cross (Isaiah 53.5); He bore our sins (I Peter 2.24); He became our mediator (I Timothy 2.5).

The Scriptures further teach that Christ is: The only Intercessor (Isaiah 59.16); the only Remedy (John 3.14); the only Nourishment (John 6.35); the only Source of Truth (John 14.6); the only Saviour (Acts 4.12); the only Foundation (I Corinthians 3.11).

There then remains only this question, Mr. Jones, the most important question in all the world: "What think ye of Christ? Whose Son is He?"

Upon your answer to that question, and upon the submission of your life to Him, depends your peace for the present and your security for the future. For the day is coming when every man must give an account of himself to God.

Will you not then meet the Saviour here and now, as have so many others in every walk of life?

What will you do with Jesus?
Neutral you cannot be;
Some day your heart will be asking,
What will He do with me?

—DAVID J. FANT, Litt.D.

The Faith Delivered to the Saints

With changes in personnel, it is possible that some questions may arise in the minds of our readers regarding the continued doctrinal soundness of the Fellowship. We are happy to assure all inquirers that we still stand firm on what Gladstone called "the impregnable rock of Holy Scripture," just as we have in times past. We shall be glad to answer such questions, or to have our colleagues answer them, providing they are addressed to the American-European Fellowship and sent to our home office, 15 Philipse Place, Yonkers 3, N. Y. All correspondence should be directed to this address. We take the opportunity of requesting, once more, that all remittances be made out in the name of the American-European Fellowship, not of any individual. This is not only a proper and dignified procedure, but it also saves time and work in the office.

On taking office as Secretary-Treasurer in 1946, we reprinted in the magazine the Doctrinal Basis and Objects of the Fellowship, We are glad to print them again at this time. They constitute the creed and the program for our co-workers and for ourselves. In the By-Laws of the Fellowship, dated June 1926, we read as follows:

The Doctrinal Basis of this Fellowship and Union is faith in the one God, who is revealed in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;

In the verbal inspiration of the Old and New Testaments in the original manuscripts;

In the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His substitutionary atonement through the shed blood, for our sins;

In His bodily resurrection for our justification;

In the presence and Presidency of the Holy Spirit in the Church;

In salvation by grace alone;

In the sanctification of believers through the Word of God and by the Holy Spirit, leading to holiness and fullness of life in Christ Jesus;

In the eternal joy of the saved and the eternal punishment of the lost;

In the personal visible coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to receive His Church and to reign in glory upon the earth.

The Objects for which this Fellowship and Union have been established are:

To recognize and encourage the unity of all true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ;

To cooperate with existing Christian agencies in carrying the Gospel to the needy places in Europe, and to foster new work in unreached districts;

To circulate the Holy Scriptures and other Christian literature;

To render material aid to needy Christians and others in stricken districts;

To publish such periodicals and other literature as may seem necessary for the carrying out of these objects.

The Seed Is the Word

Tracts in Many Languages, All Printed
and Distributed by Brother Stettler

Biel-Mett, Switzerland, November, 1952.

Very dear Friends in Christ:-

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits" (Psalm 103.8). As we review the year of 1952, this message seems to be the keynote. Modern man, who is accustomed to the machine age, has but a very superficial thought of all the benefits he daily experiences. No wonder God calls us, in dozens of passages, to be mindful of His benefits. This annual letter is such a remembrance of His faithfulness, and a note of thanks for all friendship and faithfulness on your part. Throughout the year there was never a day without heavy obligations of every kind, and there was never a day we did not feel the need of effectual and fervent prayer for God's exceptional grace. But, too, there was never a day we did not desire to praise the Lord for all His undeserved benefits and sufficiency.

Though we have a weekly Bible and prayer hour in our home, we do not have a local church in which to minister. We have been serving as an itinerant evangelist and preacher of the Gospel. While most of the assemblies are being served by laymen, some nine towns and villages were visited at regular intervals. The God-sent "Opel Olympia" (motor-car) did me inestimable service. Annually between 20,000 and 25,000 kilometers must be travelled. Last year invitations to teach and preach and evangelize in thirty-six cities, towns and villages could be accepted. In eight of these towns and villages, a series of Gospel tent meetings could be held. We particularly want to acknowledge God's keeping mercies in this country with thousands of curves, steep and narrow mountain roads, and much snow and ice. In more than 60,000 miles we have never had any serious mishap or accident.

While we could not report any sweeping revivals, we have noticed a steady and healthy growth among the younger generation. The annual Bible courses, the Bible, prayer and young people's conferences, have from year to year grown to be the most promising work in which we could engage. Already a number of the most gifted and well-prepared young people have gone to

foreign mission fields, especially South Africa, the Belgian Congo, British Camerouns, and French Guiana. This places a great responsibility, both spiritual and financial, on the Swiss assemblies. This missionary-mindedness seems to us to be an unmistakable sign of definite progress made.

Under the patronage of the Swiss Evangelical Mission we carried on for seven and a half years a constantly growing refugee work. When we took over, the mission was practically existent in name only. In the course of the years God granted that it grew and doubled and trebled until we felt we could not keep pace with its growth, and so we handed back the responsibility to the mission. Able and well-qualified persons could be found to take over on April 1, 1952. After working for all those years without remuneration to the mission, and letting rooms without charges, we felt justified in doing so. Besides, our health showed definite signs of exhaustion. Our annual visits to the refugees showed definite and great improvements in their condition, so far as the Western zones were concerned. Large numbers of the refugees emigrated to the United States, Canada, Paraguay and Australia. Thus we sent out what was left in our stock-room. Some 530 packages of clothing, with a total weight of about 9000 pounds, were sent this year. We would praise the Lord, who entrusted us with these gifts to be forwarded. In the hour of extreme need, the Church of Christ is still the last straw of hope and the only refuge of mercy, and many a poor family has learned to rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. The good Samaritan in person is still the best, invincible and undeniable Christian evidence. Hundreds of the refugees have pressed my hands in gratitude for timely help in the greatest crisis of their lives. However, we were very happy to lay the heavy obligations upon new and untried shoulders and hearts, and by various striking coincidences we were confirmed in our belief that this was the only right course to pursue.

Now we are more free to devote all our energy to the output of Christian Gospel literature. Because too many Christian publishers are interested in business and commercial ends, the Gospel tract ministry is sadly neglected in many countries. Having the salvation of precious souls in mind, we particularly specialize in the short, attractive and timely Gospel tract. During the year 1952, we sent out 12,000 pounds of Gospel literature, into eighteen countries. Some 800 literature-parcels have gone forth. With your encouragement and practical help we published eighty tracts and pamphlets, totalling 1,108,160 copies. The cost of publication was about $2500, and the postage cost another $850. The seed has been scattered, and God has promised to send rain and sunshine to make it grow. In His good time there will be the increase and the harvest. From hundreds of letters received, we know that we shall some day meet many in heaven who have been contacted with a Gospel tract. No one can deny the power of the printed page, for God Himself has taken recourse to this means, and makes Himself known through the Scriptures. The following few extracts out of hundreds of instances are for your prayerful consideration and encouragement.

A pensioned Christian man has in his insurance book a stamp marking him as "worn out." This makes him eligible for a higher pension. Nevertheless, though he is a certified "worn out" man, he is a very busy Gospel tract distributor. For some time the customs officials were filled with dislike against him, and demanded all kinds of difficult measures when he had to get permits. He remained kindly and firm, and passed out Gospel literature to the customs officers. One of them is now a saved man. The chief of the customs called him in and begged him to pardon and forget all the trouble he had caused him. He was commended for his good work and kind manners, and all packages now go through unopened and without red tape. No charges or fees are levied on any of the Gospel shipments. Praise God for this victory!

The Stettler Family, Christmas, 1952. Standing, left to right, Martha and Fred, the mother and father; Edmond Bieri, Ruth's husband; Christa. Seated: Fritz, Hanna, John (center), Ruth, Tabea.

Large Gospel shipments have gone to the "Black Cross," the Christian Gospel work among all the penal institutions in Germany. Here is an excerpt from a letter: "Each book and pamphlet goes from hand to hand. Applications for more and more never cease. Can you not increase the numbers? We couldn't think of work among the prisoners without your valuable literature. There are far more prisoners who read portions of Scripture regularly than we think. Since we cannot provide manual labor for all, the long hours of confinement mean boredom of the most dangerous sort. Every Christian book we can put into the hands of the inmates means a welcome break of their psychic depression, and works like a momentary pardon into the world that is free. They suffer intensely, and are happy to escape from themselves and their ruined past."

Another says: "I must write you how the Lord brought me through miraculously. I was at the hospital for an operation, and I hovered between life and death. God gave me the assurance of Psalm 118.17, 'I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.' Believe it or not, three days later I was dismissed, and to thank the Lord for this miracle I stood on the street-corner and distributed your Gospel tracts. Thus the God-given promise was immediately fulfilled. Please send me another package of Gospel tracts."

"Recently our high school alumni celebrated their fiftieth jubilee year, with a program for all the students. The high school director, who is a Christian, granted me permission to present to each of those in attendance a small token of love with a Gospel tract enclosed. Again in an orphanage, with inmates up to sixteen years of age, I was able to give each one a Gospel message, both to the children and the parents. Some 700 were present."

(From Berlin) "We often have opportunity to speak to the old, hardened Nazi men. They are not easy to reach with pious leaflets and sentimental stuff. But we have never experienced that your pamphlets 'Separation of the Spirits' and 'The Miracle of the Bible' have ever been refused. Usually they are being read from start to finish, and we never have any profane remarks. These tracts are excellently suited for such men. Can you not send an ample supply of them?"

"I am the widow of a public school teacher. We have 10,000 refugees in our town. Having served the Lord for more than thirty years, I have gathered together a group of women here. About one hundred come regularly. Soon Christmas will come, and I should like to present thirty of our Christian women with New Testaments. They have no Bibles. Could you supply them to us?"

It would be a comparatively easy task to find hundreds or even a thousand idle Christian men and women in every country who would gladly testify and work for the Lord Jesus Christ and the spread of the Gospel, if we would only place Gospel tracts, free of charge, in their hands,—the means of contacting their Christless surroundings. These silent messengers never fly off the handle, are patient and polite with the worst enemies, they let themselves be crumpled or thrown away, or wait patiently on some shelf or inside a book for months and years, until the right person finds them, who exactly needs their message. The printed page is one of the Christian's most efficacious weapons.

During the summer of 1952 the Evangelical European Mission for the first time ventured into Roman Catholic Austria with a Gospel tent. Could we find empty lots, and were they to be had from Roman Catholic proprietors? Right from the start we knew that the tents might have to be watched closely, day and night. The tent was borrowed from the "Youth for Christ" mission in Germany. The first Gospel tent summer in Austria, which was rather an experimental affair, has passed, and closed with great encouragement. The president and secretary of the Evangelical European Mission visited me and asked if some of the friends who helped provide the three large Gospel tents for Germany would be interested to help provide a Gospel tent for Roman Catholic Austria. The Swiss believers have already put together about a thousand dollars for this purpose. While in Germany more than thirty Gospel tents are at work, and little Switzerland has about a dozen, Austria has none. If anyone is interested, we shall be glad to give details or forward gifts.

Our prayer requests: (1) For all the seed that has been sown.
(2) For all the Christian workers who distribute the printed page.
(3) For branches of the tract work in Germany, France and Austria.
(4) For a sufficient supply of tracts.
(5) For the evangelistic opportunities throughout the year.
(6) For the many who look to us for spiritual and practical help.
(7) For the Gospel tent in Austria.
(8) For daily renewal of strength, His leading and wisdom.
(9) For all the needed funds to meet all obligations.

Now I want to address a personal note of thanks to the many who have sent us letters of congratulations and tokens of love at the occasion of the wedding of our eldest daughter Ruth (September 20th). The young couple, Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Bieri, live about an hour's distance from here. Christa is now in the seventh month at the nurses' training hospital of our city. She will have to spend three full years in training before she receives

the registered nurse's diploma. Hanna is attending some courses in dressmaking at the women's training school till the end of the year. Fritz is to leave school next spring, and already has an apprenticeship promised in a firm that makes optical instruments. If he can pass the two months of probation, he will then spend three years learning the job. The first year his wages will be eight cents a day.

May we invite every one of you to praise God for all He has wrought in the past year in answer to united prayer and faithful cooperation. We praise Him for all the help and provision experienced, and look forward to even greater things in the ensuing year. Greater blessings are to be had at the cost of greater devotion and surrender and much prayer. Let us praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all He has yet in store for us.

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" (Acts 20.32).

With best wishes and Christian greetings, your "fellow-helpers to the truth,"

FRED and MARTHA STETTLER.

WANTED! GOSPEL TRACTS BY THE TONS! Brother Stettler needs annually up to ten tons of Gospel tracts in various European languages, and for various countries. He can supply only about fifty per cent of this amount at present. Hundreds of Christians apply for them voluntarily. Won't you help us to meet the need? (See page 16.)

Year's End

This is being written on the evening of December 31, 1952, three and a quarter hours before the dawn of the new year 1953.

We are drawing to the end of 1952. The years have begun to fly swiftly by. It seems like only yesterday that I was writing my report on the year 1951, which had just ended. Now we are coming to the end of the present year also. As I mentally cast an eye over the course of this past year, I do not notice anything in particular, anything striking, which might arouse the imagination of the reader and draw his especial attention.

There was work, constant monotony, work especially during the long, difficult summer months. And how it dragged on, day after day, month after month. It seemed there would never be an end of the hot, exhausting days and the endless number of patients. Outwardly, there has been nothing to hearten us, nothing to enliven us, nothing to give a special lift to the spirit or a special rejuvenation to the work. There was nothing of particular interest.

There are parts of the harvest-field of God where people sow, and there are parts where they reap. Beyond a doubt, reaping is more interesting than sowing. What is there especially interesting, or striking, about the process of sowing? We have sown, with His help, and we have healed the sick. We have not seen the results, we have not seen the fruits, we do not know what will come of that which we have sown. We have only sown, and it may be that someone else will reap.

There were blessed and well-attended meetings for the patients, the hall very often being full to overflowing, and there were many personal testimonies and conversations. But somehow, all of this has seemed to be without result, without response. It has seemed as though all this heavy burden of

persistent work is being carried on quite in vain, and uselessly. Dark clouds have rolled in upon my spirit. And these clouds have only been dispersed by prayer and close fellowship with Him. And in prayer it seemed as though I could hear His voice: "This is My plan, I know what I am doing, and you must be satisfied with the fact that I hold everything in My hands, and know all things. You must go on filling in the details in My plans, even though these details are monotonous, dull and uninteresting for you."

This is not true alone of our work in the clinic. It is a characteristic feature of the work throughout Israel, except for the Arab sections, especially in Nazareth. Testimony is being borne, a very far-reaching testimony, throughout the land, with hardly any visible results. "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed . . . " (Psalm 126.6).

This first half of the verse in the Psalm is, as it were, a brief "report" and description of the state of the work in Israel. But in the Psalm it speaks of tears. "Where then are the tears?" you will ask. There *are* tears. They are not seen by the eye of the casual and indifferent. There are sincere workers here, who scatter their seed with tears of the spirit, and do not see the fruits. For them, apparently, it has not now been appointed to experience and see the second part of the Psalm, where it speaks of sheaves and rejoicing: " . . . shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." This last part refers to the future. Our joy now, if it be fitting and possible to speak of joy, consists in this: We are glad, at any rate, when we see our meetings crowded with listeners, and when God makes them especially attentive to the hearing of His Word.

December of this year marked the completion of fifteen years that our two clinics, the old and the new, have served the people of Israel. The old clinic, furthermore, received a great many Arab patients. When we look back we see constant work, and tears (for the tragic destruction of the old clinic). Tens of thousands of people have passed through our hands. Thousands and thousands have heard the Word of God. And yet we must acknowledge that we cannot remember any fruit at all, not one profession of faith, not one conversion. Truly, the soil here is especially stony. "And He could there do no mighty work . . . and He marvelled because of their unbelief" (Mark 6.5,6). But even so, fifteen years of work! Has our labor been in vain? Should we not close the clinic? Should we not cease from treating and witnessing to these thousands of people who do not want to hear, since in any case we get no results? What do you think on this point, readers?

This question would, beyond a doubt, have to be answered in the affirmative. Yes, let us close the clinic, it is not worth wasting one's efforts, health and means. Except for this, that there is another side to the matter. We have excellent grounds for the belief that we have here a great many "Nicodemuses." The first of them came to Jesus by night. Is this the fruit of our labor? Yes, if you will, it is.

When our indifferent and seemingly impassive listeners go out of the meetings, so to speak, into the night of obscurity, the Holy Spirit pursues them, works in their souls, and transforms some of them, we do not know how many, from adversaries into "Nicodemuses." These "Nicodemuses" for the time being are afraid of the light, they are afraid that others may perceive what is going on in their hearts. But they are already saying to Christ: "Thou art a teacher come from God." They are already reading the Gospel, though in secret. When they meet you on the street, they turn their heads away, pretending not to know you, and they pass by without seeming to see you. If by accident they fall into a conversation with you in a public place, they keep looking to the right and left, for fear some of their friends may see them. How many are there of these "Nicodemuses"? We do not know; we

know only that there are not a few. These are not "fruits," these are not conversions, these are not visible results. Should we close the clinic, dear readers?

It is hard to say just what our total attendance has been throughout these fifteen years. In the former clinic, the number of patients treated annually rose as high as 18,000 or 19,000. In the present clinic it ranges between 10,000 and 10,500. During the present year we have had only 7072 patients. This is to be explained partly by the fact that one of our nurses went abroad in the month of May and remained for some time, and that frequently in the course of the year one or another of the personnel of the clinic fell ill and was not able to treat the patients. I think it is no exaggeration to say that during the course of these fifteen years we have had about 180,000 patients.

Let us bend our knees before the Lord and beseech Him that, in eternity, we may see the salvation of at least some of these souls.

JAMES YUK.

Conversation Piece

Editor: If the occupation of translating from the Russian, between midnight and 1 A.M., has left us with any mental powers, we would like to make a few comments. It seems to us as though Dr. Yuk, in the mood of very real discouragement with which he begins the above article, is more effective than in much of his more cheerful writing. His sincerity comes through so clearly. He is now planning some necessary repairs to the clinic; a sizeable remittance has gone to him for that purpose, and we are also negotiating the purchase of a larger electric fan than he has had in the past, for the torrid summer heat.

A Reader: When I grow discouraged, like the doctor, I take my refuge in God's wonderful out-of-doors. The distant hills are crowned with purple mist that rises or falls in the valleys, and early mornings show us a red sun over one ridge and the pale moon still lingering over the opposite one. Wild geese are honking overhead, crickets now chirp on the hearths, days are growing shorter, and at the close of day the horses whinny, the cattle low, and sheep keep bleating for an earlier entrance to the warmth of sheltering barns. Flocks of birds take off and wing their way to the Southland. Oh, the mystery of migration!

The remaining flowers have deeper hues, the unloved poison ivy has turned a scarlet color. Mornings are burnt up with warm noontides, so much so that a few robins came back to take one more look. White and silky thistledown floats from fields and pastures, bright-colored leaves fall silently into the creeks and brooks.

Woodlands will soon be hushed for winter silence. Some days we have weeping skies, moods of minor music of breezes in the pines. The creaking of rusty gates is heard. Weeds, thorns, thistles, choking vines, poison and parasitic plants feel the destructive forces of frosts and storms, even before half of autumn's beauty has faded. There are shadows in the valley, but there is sunshine on the hills. The slow harmonious chords of our autumn of this year's symphony will soon be haunting melodies. If you stand a few minutes under the starry autumnal skies, you can hear the chimes from the village church clock at the head of the valley strike the hour. The day is done, and darkness falls. Never can you regain those hours: but a new day is given to mankind, another chance to strengthen your weaknesses and cor-

rect your mistakes of yesterday. Even though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.

Harvest will soon be over, and the grain is full in the ear. True Indian summer is still ahead; that is the time when, the Indians believe, a wind comes from the court of their great god, telling them this is their second chance to finish their fall work. At any rate, the harvest of material things is soon over. In the realm of spiritual things, Luke says, "The harvest truly is great." The laborers are few, Christ calleth for you, to glean for His garner on high. He needs you, there's work that only you can do. Your labor will be blest, after toil cometh rest, and He will richly reward you, if you obey His request. So let us work, watch and pray, for the Harvest Days will soon be over. Jeremiah 8.20 says: "The harvest is past." Then the rich gales of mercy no longer will blow, the Gospel will have no message, Jesus will invite you no more, His own beloved ones will have gone to dwell in the peaceful mansions above.

Keep us, Lord, still in communion,
Daily nearer drawn to Thee,
Sinking in the sweetest union
Of that heart-felt mystery.
Keep us safe from each delusion,
Well protected from all harms,
Free from sin and all confusion,
Circle us within Thine arms.

The Editor: That is a most beautiful description, and it is a pity that we couldn't find space for it last fall, instead of now, when a soon-to-be-March wind is tearing at the windows. We here are greatly blessed, for Nature is not always so kind. By the way, did you know that CARE has made provisions to help the flood sufferers in Holland and other countries of Europe? Contributions of money are being accepted, and used for blanket packages.

A Reader: May we send gifts for this purpose through you?

The Editor: Yes, we will forward the full amount, without deduction, to CARE. Checks should be made out to the American-European Fellowship as usual. We owe so much to Holland, both culturally and spiritually.

Another Reader: May we ourselves send food and clothing direct?

The Editor: No, for the present, we are requested not to do this.

Another Reader: I am so glad you let us send just as we are able. I do not like to wait until you have to ask for donations, when the Treasury of the Lord is empty. So, as soon as I have a bit of something, I want to let you have it. I picked four half-bushel baskets of grapes this week, sold them to the village store for one dollar apiece, and want you to have half of it, the other half went for a special need in the Church. And you need not write and thank me for it. I am thinking of you daily in my prayer for all the dear souls, our mutual friends, working for the Kingdom of our God, given to me for intercession.

The Editor: That is another voice we should have heard last fall, when the letter first came. We are in a different part of the year now, but such sentiments are never spiritually out of season. There is always so much more material than we can use! Even now, we are stealing space which rightfully belongs to a news-report from the Lukeshes in Germany. We have been hearing from them pretty regularly in these pages, and we did want to let our readers speak. Will Charles and Edna forgive us, do you think?

(*Continued on page* 16)

AMERICAN-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP RECEIPTS, December—January, 1953

(The First National Bank in Yonkers is depositary for all gifts. Contributions to the Fellowship are deductible from Federal income tax returns.)

36157--$15.00	36207--$15.00	36257--$15.00	36307--$50.00
36158----4.00	36208----1.00	36258---15.00	36308----5.00
36159----5.00	36209----5.00	36259----5.00	36309----2.00
36160---50.00	36210---10.00	36260---12.00	36310---10.00
36161----1.00	36211----2.00	36261----2.00	36311---11.00
36162---10.00	36212---40.00	36262----5.00	36312----1.00
36163----2.00	36213---10.00	36263----5.00	36313----1.00
36164---10.00	36214---10.00	36264----5.00	36314---10.00
36165----5.00	36215--100.00	36265---10.00	36315--100.00
36166---10.00	36216---40.00	36266----1.00	36316---15.00
36167----5.00	36217----5.00	36267----2.00	36317----5.00
36168---15.00	36218----1.00	36268----5.00	36318---15.00
36169----2.00	36219---35.00	36269---10.00	36319---20.00
36170---11.00	36220----1.00	36270----2.00	36320----1.00
36171---10.00	36221----5.00	36271---25.00	36321----2.00
36172----5.50	36222----2.00	36272----5.00	36322----5.00
36173---50.00	36223----1.00	36273----5.00	36323---50.00
36174----5.00	36224----2.00	36274----5.00	36324----1.00
36175---50.00	36225---10.00	36275----5.00	36325---10.00
36176----5.00	36226---25.00	36276----2.00	36326----5.00
36177---60.00	36227----2.00	36277----2.00	36327----1.00
36178----3.00	36228----5.00	36278--100.00	36328---50.00
36179---25.00	36229----2.00	36279----2.00	36329-----.50
36180---15.00	36230----2.00	36280----1.00	36330----1.00
36181----2.00	36231----1.00	36281----2.00	36331----2.00
36182---75.00	36232----5.00	36282----5.00	36332----2.00
36183----5.00	36233----3.00	36283---25.00	36333----3.00
36184----1.00	36234----3.00	36284----1.00	36334---10.00
36185---35.00	36235----1.00	36285----2.00	36335----5.00
36186---10.00	36236---10.00	36286---10.00	36336----4.00
36187----1.00	36237----5.00	36287----5.00	36337----5.00
36188----2.00	36238---10.00	36288---75.00	36338----1.00
36189---25.00	36239---20.00	36289---20.00	36339----2.00
36190---50.00	36240---10.00	36290---20.00	36340----5.00
36191---10.00	36241----1.00	36291---10.00	36341----2.00
36192--125.00	36242----1.00	36292----6.00	36342---10.00
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36194---25.00	36244---15.00	36294----5.00	36344----5.00
36195---10.00	36245----6.50	36295----5.00	36345---10.00
36196---10.00	36246----5.00	36296---10.00	36346----1.00
36197---20.00	36247---10.00	36297----6.00	36347--200.00
36198---10.00	36248----5.00	36298----5.00	36348----1.00
36199----5.96	36249---10.00	36299----5.00	36349---11.00
36200----6.00	36250----2.00	36300----2.00	36350---15.00
36201---25.00	36251----5.00	36301----2.00	36351----2.00
36202---10.00	36252---42.00	36302---75.00	36352----1.00
36203----9.36	36253----1.00	36303----4.00	36353----1.00
36204---20.00	36254---60.00	36304---10.00	36354----1.00
36205----3.00	36255---25.00	36305---25.00	36355---10.00
36206---10.00	36256---12.00	36306----2.00	36356----2.00